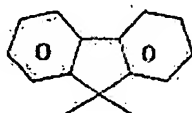


Remarks

The Applicants have amended a number of the claims to place them into condition for allowance. For example, Claim 1 has been amended to remove reference to chemical formula (IV) as well as equation (3). Further, equations (1) and (2) have been amended so that their ranges are more closely defined. Further, chemical formulae (I), (II) and (III) have been amended by changing a number of the R components. For example, R¹ is now directed to fluorene as represented by the formula:



Support may be found on page 18 of the Specification, for example. Similar type amendments have been made to R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹, R¹² and R¹⁵. Support for those amendments may be found on pages 19 – 22.

Claims 2, 4 and 5 have been amended to narrow the originally claimed range. Claim 3 has been cancelled.

Claims 7, 8 and 9 have been amended to remove reference to formula (IV) in view of the change to Claim 1.

Finally, Claims 14 and 16 have been amended to narrow the respective ranges in those claims based on the original range. Entry of all of the above changes to the above-mentioned claims and consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments do not raise new issues for consideration or require new searching inasmuch as the subject matter of these claims has already been searched and examined and the claims as now amended represent a subset of the previously searched and examined subject matter. Also, by cancellation of Claim 3, the number of claims and,

therefore, issues have been reduced. Moreover, the Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments place the entire Application into final condition for allowance.

Claims 1 – 5, 7, 10 – 22, 36, 38 – 39, 41 and 42 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Harris. The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot with respect to cancelled Claim 3. The Applicants nonetheless respectfully submit that Harris fails to disclose explicitly or implicitly all of the subject matter of those claims.

The Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's helpful reference to formula (I) of Harris as disclosed in Column 5. However, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Harris structural formula (I) does not disclose the Applicants' polyamide composition comprising chemical formulae (I), (II) or (III) as recited in Claim 1. A direct comparison of the Applicants' claimed structure versus those of Harris reveal those differences. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 – 3, 7, 10 – 15, 22, 36 and 38 – 39 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Murakami. The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot with respect to cancelled Claim 3. The Applicants also respectfully submit that Murakami fails to disclose all of the subject matter as recited in the remaining rejected claims mentioned above.

The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's helpful comments hypothetically applying Murakami against Claims 1, 3, 7, 10 – 15, 22, 36 and 38 – 39, particularly the helpful reference to formula (22). The Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 is quite different from formula (22), as can be seen when direct comparisons are made. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7, 9, 11 – 14 and 20 – 22 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Handa. The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's helpful comments hypothetically applying Handa against 1, 7, 9, 11 – 14 and 20 – 22, particularly with respect to the polyamide

structure of Column 3. The Applicants nonetheless respectfully submit that Handa fails to explicitly or implicitly disclose the subject matter of those claims.

As noted above, the Applicants' independent Claim 1 has been amended and, upon comparison to the polyamide structure of Handa, as shown in Column 3, Claim 1 (of Handa) and elsewhere, it can readily be seen that there is no overlap. As a consequence, the Applicants respectfully submit that Handa is inapplicable. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7 – 9 and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Elfert. The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's detailed comments, particularly with respect to Column 6 and Claim 1 of Elfert hypothetically applying that subject matter against Claims 1, 7 – 9 and 22. The Applicants respectfully submit, however, that Elfert fails to disclose the subject matter of those claims. A direct comparison of the Elfert structures with the structures claimed in the Applicants' Claim 1 reveals that they do not overlap and are therefore not anticipated. Withdrawal of the rejection based on Elfert is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7, 9 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Tsukuda. The Applicants again note the Examiner's helpful comments with respect to the Tsukuda structure disclosed in Column 6 and Claim 1. The Applicants nonetheless respectfully submit that Tsukuda fails to explicitly or implicitly disclose the subject matter of Claims 1, 7, 9 and 14. A comparison between the structures of Tsukuda and those of the Applicants' Claims 1, 7, 9 and 14 reveal that they do not overlap and, therefore, Tsukuda is inapplicable. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

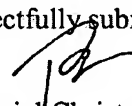
Claims 1 – 3, 10 – 15, 22, 36 and 38 – 39 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Yamaoka. The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot with respect to cancelled Claim 3. The Applicants also respectfully submit that the subject matter of those

rejected claims is not anticipated by the structures of Yamaoka. In that regard, the Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's reference to structures 22 and 23 of Yamaoka. However, direct comparison of those structures with those recited in the Applicants' Claim 1 reveals that they do not overlap. Withdrawal of the rejection based on Yamaoka is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 40 – 46 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 over the combination of Vargo with Harris or Tsukuda or Murakami or Yamaoka. The Applicants respectfully submit that hypothetically combining Vargo with any of the primary references does not cure the deficiencies in the structures of the primary references. Therefore, even if one skilled in the art were to make the combination of Vargo as set forth in the rejection, the result would still be a different structure from that recited in Claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that the entire Application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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